



The Flyer



First Museum Fly Day of 2012

More planned for this summer

Easter weekend, in retrospect, may not have been the best weekend to introduce Museum Fly Days to Midland, but calendars and previous commitments dictated this Fly Day.

Despite the timing, the event was met with enthusiasm by those who attended. The HSW set up a recruiting table and signed up one new member (see photo on page 2) who had recently moved here from Alaska (talk about culture shock!), and received strong interest from several others. The Desert Squadron was also represented with a recruiting table.

Members of the media gave good coverage to us and the High Sky RC Club, which put on their usual excellent demonstration of remote controlled aerobatic skills.

Visitors were able to watch HSW aircraft in action and take cockpit tours, all of which helps to build a future member base.

We hope that this event will continue to grow and be a showcase for our mission.

Museum Director Autumn Hicks will announce future Fly Days.

WING LEADER REPORT BY MIKE HEDRICK



Flying Season has begun!

Actually we have been flying for some time because of the beneficial weather conditions that started early this year with

the unseasonably warm weather. (Special Note: long-time residents of West Texas tend to DENY the existence of adverse windy conditions, especially those winds that contain significant quantities of particulate matter...these conditions are most easily ignored when the wind direction happens to be aligned with the compass reading of a local runway)

Nevertheless, we are now officially into Fly-In/Air Show season. Last weekend the CAF Airpower Museum had its very first "Fly Day", supported by the HSW with open-cockpit tours of our collection of historic aircraft, and the Hi Sky RC Model Airplane Club demonstrating otherworldly aerobatics in the Main Hangar.

Coming up the weekend of April 13-14 (yikes...Friday the 13th!),

we will be attending the Bluebonnet Air Show in Burnet, Texas (see bluebonnetairshow.com) hosted by the Highland Lakes Squadron. Other events include:

April 26th High Sky Wing Monthly Meeting

April 27-28th will find us at the Big Country Air Show at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas.

May 12th the CAF Airpower Museum will host its second "Fly Day".

May 17th will be the date for a very special (top secret guest) Remembrance of War Seminar presented by the Museum.

May 18-20th the HSW will be traveling to the Hondo Air Show, with overnight billeting at the Hangar Hotel in Fredericksburg...a favorite of Colonel's wives and families.

May 26th will be a day trip to the Ranger Fly-In, a unique event on a grass airfield.

May 28th the HSW will be at home for the CAF/HSW Memorial Day Fly-In and celebration.

Newsletter Information



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Folks, that is seven flying events in two months, attended by five HSW aircraft, plus **James Martin's SNB**, **Bill Coombes' SNJ** and **Don Hoffman's Kate Replica**... WOW! Please take some time to thank the hard working Maintenance and Operations groups who put in the long hours to make our fleet airworthy...and all the while moving the T-28 closer to its debut. And thank the non-flying members like **Gena Linebarger**, who stepped up to organize the Dyess trip, and the rank-and-file members who add so much to our home field activities.

If you have an interest in participating in any of these events, or the others that extend into the summer months, please contact the HSW Staff so we can reserve a place for you.

See you at the airfield!



OPERATIONS REPORT BY DREW DIGGINS



The wing has received letters from HQ officially naming Col **Mark Haskin** and Col **Steve Clinton** as our two newest Pilots. This raises the number of High Sky Wing rated Pilots to eleven, flying nine wing and personal aircraft. The wing will be attending several air shows in the next two months, so the addition of new pilots to fly the aircraft is great.

First up is Burnet, Texas, then Hondo and Dyess. You can see the air show dates the wing proposes to attend on our web site and which wing member is coordinating that air show effort. Please feel free to contact the individual air show coordinator in advance if you have a particular show you would like attend and they will work on reserving you a seat. If you are unable to plan that far out we will send an e-mail blast to members if there are any last minute seats available.

(Maintenance from pg 3) has fallen back on HSW. She now is back in our maintenance bay . There is the potential that the prop may have to be removed and sent off for repairs.

T-28 – The struts for all 3 gears have been serviced and are in the process of being installed. The firewall forward work is going along great

and would anticipate prop installation in the next 30 days.

Twin Beech – James has the autopilot gremlins worked out, but is still chasing some annoying oil leaks. Will begin spit & polish detail work for show season.

Coombes SNJ – Annual complete. “Everything is Good”.

Last weekend was the CAF Museum’s first Fly Day this year. The wing had all aircraft positioned at the CAF main hanger early Saturday morning. The RC club had dozens of model aircraft flying, many at the same time, in the main hanger; the talent displayed by their members truly was world class. The wing pilots and ground crew had a completely disorganized (as usual) hamburger lunch on the wing patio using Col **Bob Keating’s** newly donated gas grill. Thanks Bob! The burgers and the company were great and we will attempt to do the same burgers at the next Museum Fly Day.

While the turnout was small we did have one new member join, and another declare his intentions. Big Two News and the Odessa American covered Fly Day and **James Martin** gave a ride to their reporters.

With a little press I think the Fly Day will be better attended by the general public next month, but I encourage you to come and get a ride in our aircraft regardless and enjoy a burger with the pilots and ground crew.

SPREAD THE WORD!

Parachutes - Five ‘chutes are at Jim Fowler’s shop ready to go. Kind of waiting as long as possible so we don’t have to repack before AirSho in Oct. Thanks to **Randy Wilson** for paying for this service.



Photo by Greg Gutting

New Colonel **Tom Maunder** receives his New Colonel badge from his wife, Sue, at Museum Fly Day on April 7

New PT-19 prop ready to be installed.



Photo by Mike Hedrick

THE KNUCKLEBUSTERS CORNER BY STEVE CLINTON

(L to R), Randy Wilson and Steve Clinton just after Steve's check ride in the L-17 Navion on April 6th. Pretty big smiles, guys!

Photo courtesy of Steve Clinton

The first quarter of 2012 is already gone. Time flies when you're having fun.

We are rapidly approaching the Wing's first outing to the Bluebonnet Air Show at Burnet, TX. on April 14th. These Fly-Ins and Air Shows provide not only the wing pilots an opportunity to get some flying in, but more importantly it gives the whole wing a chance to show off a little. The aircraft fleet we can take to events is quiet an attention getter and commands a great deal of respect for the High Sky Wing and it's membership.

Everyone is invited to come out and supply a little TLC on our aircraft and make sure they look their best. As always" everything is good" and "Keep Em Flyin".

March Maintenance Report

SNJ 101X – Annual completed. No metal found in oil screens. Ready for flight.

L-17 - Having intermittent unsafe gear retraction issues. Will put up on jacks & investigate.

Stinson 105 – Leading edge damage has been repaired and aircraft is in operational condition.

Fairchild PT-19 – Prop was received, but a small amount of shipping damage was noted. Latest report from **James Martin** is that repairs are going to be handled locally.

Fairchild F-24 – Ready for Duty.

Kate – Condition Inspection was started by Richard, but due to new assignments the completion of inspection and multiple repairs (see **Maintenance** on pg 2)

SAFETY REPORT BY PAUL COOPER**Guiding Safety Responsibility**

for our wing rests on you, the member! Your responsibility is even more important than the responsibilities of your elected leaders.

Lyn Fite, longtime HSW member, met with me on a recent Saturday to go over some safety issues that we all need to address to

have a safe working environment around the hangar. During the next few weeks, we are going to make some changes around the hangar.

Do any members know what to do if we have a hangar fire, aircraft fire, fuel leakage or spillage? What are you going to do first, second, third -- who will do what -- how will they do it -- when will they do it? I will be working on an "EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN". Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions we can use to prevent any hazards in the hangar.

Also, please take a moment to read Stephan C. Brown's article in the March *Dispatch* about "GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR OUR OPERATIONS" on page 14. Also, warmer weather is here! Be aware of your surrounding for snakes, spiders, & other odd creatures as they will creep into the hangar for food & water.



"The First Fire Extinguisher of which there is any record was patented in England in 1723 by Ambrose Godfrey, a celebrated chemist. It consisted of a cask of fire-extinguishing liquid **containing a pewter chamber of gunpowder**. This was connected with a system of fuses which were ignited, exploding the gunpowder and scattering the solution. This device was probably used to a limited extent..." (red emphasis added)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire_extinguisher

ADJUTANT REPORT BY PATTI COLLINS

The members of the High Sky Wing are an awesome, diversified group of people. If you would like to get more involved, there are always things to do, whether it is in the Hangar, the Galley, the Ready Room, wherever. We are here most every Tuesday and Thursday evenings in addition to our Saturday work days. With air show season upon us, there are even more things that need to be done. (By the way, if you haven't yet paid your 2012 HSW dues(\$75), please do so as soon as possible.)

Now, for some more fun news, I am trying to make arrangements for the CAF/High Sky Wing to have seats in the Pit Area of Summer Mummies. The date that is

being worked on is Friday, July 13, 2012. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact me at (432)631-7072. The seats will be on a first come first served basis and your tickets will need to be paid for in advance.

This should be a fun night for all who are involved! If you have ever watched the Dudley Dooright/ Penelope Pitstop cartoon, envision this in a live format! This melodrama even allows you to throw popcorn at the villain and participate in singing during the Olio Show! I will have more information soon. Until next month, let's keep 'em flying and fly safe!



Source of logo:

www.visitmidlandtexas.com/summer_mummies_yucca_theatre

XO REPORT BY GREG GUTTING

If you missed the Wing Meeting on March 22nd we hope you will make the next one on April 26th. At the March meeting I took everyone on a "nickel tour" of the web page (<http://highskywing.org>). If you haven't visited the site recently, give it a try. The events section will keep you up to date, especially with air show season getting started.

Another topic that we discussed was the museums in west Texas. If you read your most recent issue of

The Dispatch you are probably already aware that there are five other World War II themed museums in west Texas besides our own American Heritage Airpower Museum: the [Hangar 25 Museum](#) in Big Spring, the [Silent Wings Museum](#) in Lubbock, the [Texas Air Museum](#) in Slaton, the [National World War II WASP Museum](#) in Sweetwater and the [12th Armored Division Museum](#) in Abilene. There have also been some stories in the local news recently about moving a World War II collection in Monahans into a new building or perhaps renovating the existing facility. This would bring to seven the number of similarly themed museums in west Texas. What an opportunity to attract tourists!

I would like to organize a road trip to visit these museums; a sort of museum trail, if you will. We could leave from our museum parking lot and car pool to two or three museums in one day or just one a day, whatever we decide. Everyone would be responsible for their own expenses, and if you ride with someone, chipping in for gas would help. The following Saturday's are available: May 12, 26; Jun 9, 16, 23, 30. If you have an interest, please contact me at 210-326-5983 or ggutting@earthlink.net.

ROAD TRIP!!

**DOOLITTLE'S RAIDERS BOMB TOKYO**

B-25B's prepare to launch from the USS Hornet on April 18, 1942 to bomb the Land of the Rising Sun. While the physical damage to Japan was minor, the psychological damage to their people and the psychological boost to the morale of the American people was enormous.

Photo from: www.doolittleraider.com/images/h53420.jpg

TURN AND BANK BY STEVE BOLIN

March was another successful financial month for the High Sky Wing. Members continue to take pride of ownership by donating their hard-earned dollars to the wing as well. Monthly donations, helping support the wing meetings by donating \$5.00 for a plate and cup, donating to the Paid the Rent Club, and paying for fuel to train in the aircraft, are just a few of the ways that members invest in the High Sky Wing.

For this article the amounts really don't matter. (I do have, and report, the individual amounts at the Staff meeting each month.) The important point to me is that more and more members are taking charge and jumping up to do whatever is necessary around the wing when needed. The insignificant fact that selling hot dogs at the Museum Fly Day does not earn what Bingo does is

just not important. There was a need, and several people stepped up to fulfill the need. I don't want to leave anyone out, so I won't try to name names. However, many Colonels and Colonels' families were involved.

We also just completed our first audit by Floyd Houdyshell and Tiffany Bruce in a very long time. It was completed to the satisfaction of the HQ staff. (Tiffany replaced Janet Tarlton as the Unit Finance coordinator at HQ.)

Bingo did make a substantial donation this month that will help operate the aircraft and run the wing. I still say our most important asset is our members. I may just have to call Floyd and tell him I need to correct our balance sheet.

**Our wing
members
are the best!**

**MISCELLANEOUS MISCHIEF****TRIVIA CONTEST:**

Guess the historical significance of these planes and win a High Sky Wing t-shirt:

Whiskey Pete

The Green Hornet

The Ruptured Duck

Whirling Dervish

Hari Karier

Fickle Finger of Fate

The Avenger

TNT

Bat Out of Hell

(Hint: There are seven other planes that share the same historical significance.)

1) The first person to submit the correct answer to: comments@highskywing.org will be the winner. Please include t-shirt size and your identifying information (I don't know who study@hotlips.com is!).

2) Limited to one entry per HSW member.

3) Contest begins on April 14, 2012 @ 8:00 am.

4) Entry Deadline: April 25, 2012 @ 10:00 pm.

5) The winner will receive their t-shirt at the next HSW monthly meeting. (scheduled for Thursday, April 26)

T-Shirt Contest**DID YOU KNOW?**

When Major General Curtis LeMay took over the XXI Bomber Command he ordered the beginning of night-time incendiary bomb runs against Japan by B-29's flying under 10,000 feet. Over 60 square miles of Japan's industrial centers were destroyed. One raid on Yokohama destroyed about 85% of the city, killing over 500,000 civilians. Many argue that a continuation of this type of bombing would have brought an end to the war, without the need for dropping Little Boy over Hiroshima and Fat Man over Nagasaki. (*The Encyclopedia of 20th Century Warfare*, (c) 2001, Aerospace Publishing Ltd., pgs 250-255)

High Sky Wing Newsletter

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 14
Bluebonnet Air Show at Burnet

April 26
Wing Meeting

April 28
Dyess Air Show

May 4th -6th

Central Texas Air Show at
Temple

(Check the Events Calendar at
<http://highskywing.org>
for the latest information)

May 9-11

25th Annual National Naval
Aviation Museum Symposium in
Pensacola

CLICK ON:

[www.navalaviationmuseum.org/
news-and-events/2012-symposium](http://www.navalaviationmuseum.org/news-and-events/2012-symposium)

for registration and information

May 12

Museum Fly Day

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